Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 EUR-12 HA-05 SP-02 L-03 H-01 PA-01 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 HEW-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /133 W

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O P 191135Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY DACCA TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9390 INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY

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PASS AID/OFDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF EAID BG BM US

SUBJECT: U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO RELIEF OF MUSLIM REFUGEES FROM BURMA

- 1. AS WE ARE REPORTING SEPARATELY, IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT, THE UNSYG HAS DESIGNATED UNHCR AS RESPONSIBLE FOR RELIEF TO MUSLIM REFUGEES FROM BURMA AND UNDP DIRECTOR ZAGORIN (WHO ALSO REPRESENTS UNHCR IN DACCA) IS EN ROUTE TO GENEVA TO CONSULT WITH UNHCR. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE CORRECT UMBRELLA UNDER WHICH RELIEF OPERATIONS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT AND THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT OBVIOUSLY AGREES.
- 2. VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS ARE NOW BEGINNING TO CONTRIBUTE RELIEF. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS JOINED WITH PRIVATE AGENCIES IN PROVIDING A PLANELOAD OF SUPPLIES AND THE CFKADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A CONTRIBUTION THROUGH THE CANADIAN AND BANGLADESH RED CROSS ORGANIZATIONS. WE HAVE BEEN EXAMINING WHAT MIGHT BE THE BEST WAY IN WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE USG MIGHT MAKE A SYMPATHETIC GESTURE TO INDICATE ITS HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS OF THE U.S. PEOPLE: IT WOULD ALSO INDICATE OUR SYMPATHY TO THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT FOR THE ADDITIONAL BURDEN WHICH IT MUST NOW ASSUME.

3. OUR OFFER OF RELIEF TO THE GOVERNMENT TO BURMA FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE RECENT CYCLONE MAKES THE ISSUE OF HOW WE

DEMONSTRATE OUR CONCERN FOR THE MUSLIM RELIEFS MORE IMMEDIATE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S EARLY ADVICE REGARDING HOW THE USG MIGHT BEST INDICATE (BOTH TO THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT AND TO THE BANGLADESH AND U.S. PUBLIC) OUR DESIRE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE. THE AMASTEADOR IS RELUCTANT TO USE HIS DOLS 25,000 AUTHORITY IF DOING SO WILL REQUIRE PRIOR INVESTIGATION AND POST MONITORING. IN FACT, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY USG RELIEF SHOULD BE PROVIDED IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD REQUIRE BILATERAL MONITORING. THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT DOES NOT WANT THIS AND IT IS BEST THAT THE TASK BE LEFT TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE TO THE UNHCR. SCHNEIDER

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